

It would be most prudent for CT to do more in the battle against Aquatic Invasive Plants! In the US invasive plants was a 34 billion dollar problem in 2005. Without a doubt this problem is growing exponentially in the US and CT. Other New England States and all States with active year round lake recreation and tourism do so much more to fight invasive plants. CT may be the worst in the nation in its funding to fight invasives.

Lake Associations around CT are using their limited private money to somewhat control aquatic invasive weeds in their favorite lakes and ponds. Some towns are starting to help because they recognize the importance of attractive lakes to their quality of life and their local economy.

Probably the greatest cause of spread of these invasive weeds in CT is boaters going between lakes (carrying loose weeds on their boats and trailers) using state boat launch ramps which are almost entirely unsupervised. The DEEP is not investing the money needed to responsibly monitor these ramps. To underfund both the Invasive Plants Council (IPC) and the launch monitoring is clearly regrettable and irresponsible. At least, please fund the IPC, the key central agent in this battle.

Also it is well established that when the recreational desirability of lakes and ponds decline so also do the property values around these invasive weed infested waterbodies. (Kara J. Fishman's 1999 UConn Master's Thesis with Leonard and Shah - "Economic Evaluation of Connecticut Lakes with Alternative Water Quality Levels") With property values down, the property tax income of these towns as well as the vibrancy of the local businesses supporting seasonal tourism and vacation and weekend activities on lakes will also be down.

So to improve the State economy and that of many, many towns with ponds and lakes, please properly fund the Invasive Plants Council, which leads this battle against invasive weeds!

Thank you,
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